

Appendix R

Arkansas STEM Coalition Letter of Support



P.O. Box 3142 Little Rock, Arkansas 72203 • Phone: 501-425-9995

November 4, 2013

Ms. Michele Snyder
Arkansas Department of Education
#4 Capitol Mall, Room 301 B
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Ms. Snyder:

On behalf of the Arkansas STEM Coalition Board, I am sending you this letter of support for the adoption of the Next Generation Science Standards in Arkansas. The Arkansas STEM Coalition believes that a set of strong K-12 science standards will improve science content learning, systems design, hands-on laboratory learning, and science applications. Arkansas has shown a strong commitment to standards based learning through the adoption of the Common Core State Standards in Language Arts and Mathematics. The STEM Coalition Board strongly recommends the continuation of standards in science that will allow for more rigorous and relevant learning expectations and standards in science. The Next Generation Science Standards philosophy supports the Arkansas law that 20% of science instruction time be dedicated to inquiry and hands-on investigations in K-8 science classes and laboratory experiences in grades 9-12 in secondary science classes. The Arkansas STEM Coalition partners with the Arkansas Department of Education in support of the Next Generation Science Standards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Suzanne Mitchell".

Suzanne Mitchell, Ph.D.
Executive
Director
cc: Steve Runge, Arkansas, STEM Coalition Chair, 2013-2014